

REMARKS

Amendments Already Published

Please note that this Preliminary Amendment applies to a Divisional Application and that all of the current amendments to the Specification and the Abstract have already been entered in the process of amending Patent Application 10/045,123, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,658,833.

Regarding the amendments to the drawings, the changes to Figures 5 – 7 and 13 – 14 also appear in the issued patent.

While the amendment of Figure 9 was also requested in the amendment process for application 10/045,123, that change was not reflected in the issued patent, and amendment of Figure 9 in this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

In view of the fact that the amendments to the Specification, the Abstract, and most of the Figures were entered during the parent application, the following discussion may be redundant. However, it is included for completeness.

SPECIFICATION

In paragraph [0107], applicants observed a misspelling as “prinmary” and corrected it to “primary”.

In paragraphs [0114] and [0115] and in Figures 13 and 14, applicants discovered that they had on occasion used the same reference numbers to refer to multiple objects.

These informalities were corrected by amending the reference numbers in the paragraphs, and by changing the corresponding reference numbers in Figures 13 and 14.

In paragraph [0116], references to Figures 10 and 12 were inserted so that the description could be more readily followed.

In Figure 9, the rods pictured as supporting the baffle 116 were not given a reference number or a descriptive statement in paragraph [0106]. Accordingly, in order to add clarity, reference number 117 has been added to Figure 9, and paragraph [0106] has been amended by adding the following sentence:

“Infundibulate baffle 116 is suspended below secondary separation chamber 102 by supporting rods 117 or by other supporting means.”

Claims

In the course of examining Patent Application No. 10/045,123, the Examiner required restriction. To be responsive to the restriction requirement in this divisional application, Applicants have elected Group II, including Claim 2 and claims dependent therefrom as amended, as the basis for examining this application. Additional dependent claims have been added to more fully define the invention. Consideration of these claims is respectfully requested.

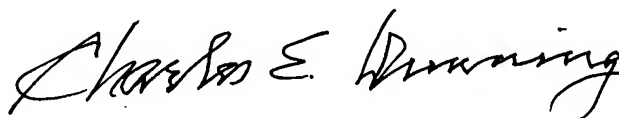
In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicants retain the right to present Claims 1, 15 – 18, 21 – 23, and 34 – 39 in a divisional application.

Also enclosed with this Preliminary Amendment is an updated Information Disclosure Statement, which includes the additional references cited by the examiner in the parent application and other references more recently identified by the applicants.

Coincident with filing the Divisional Application 724,316 on November 26, 2003, applicants paid an application fee of \$439. Thus, applicants understand that no further fee is due at this time.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is believed to be in condition for examination. If the applicants have overlooked any matters, the Examiner is invited to call the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Dunning". The script is cursive and fluid.

Charles E. Dunning, and

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Saathoff". The script is cursive and fluid.

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